

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: October 13, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on October 6, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response (Sodium Hydroxide Spill), Perstop Polyols, Toledo, Ohio

On September 28, 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Emergency Response Branch responded to a 15,000-gallon sodium hydroxide spill that occurred at Perstop Polyols in Toledo, Ohio. U.S. EPA's On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) responded to the spill. The Perstop facility consists of four large manufacturing plants on a 41-acre site, producing pentaerythritol, trimethylolpropane (TMP), formaldehyde, and sodium formate. The spill was discovered by Perstop when an 18,500-gallon wastewater treatment tank containing sodium hydroxide leaked into a secondary containment area and overflowed. Approximately 20,000 pounds of sodium hydroxide entered the City of Toledo's storm water sewer system and caused problems with their system. Perstop personnel cleaned up the spilled material and all excess liquids were pumped into tanker trucks for disposal. U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA conducted several field tests for pH in adjacent storm water sewer ditches and catch basins, and oversight of cleanup activities.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Removal Completion, Wilson Steel and Wire Site, Chicago, Illinois

On September 8, 2000, the Wilson Steel and Wire emergency removal action in Chicago, Illinois, was completed. U.S. EPA responded to the arson fire on June 26, 2000, at the abandoned warehouse containing flammable liquids, muriatic acid tanks, sulfuric acid tanks, pickling liquor vats, lead smelting furnaces, and friable asbestos. The City of Chicago Department of Environment and the Chicago Fire Department requested U.S. EPA assistance to secure the building and remove all hazardous materials. The emergency removal was completed in ten weeks and the building was turned over to the City of Chicago, who will conduct the asbestos abatement and demolition of the building. The 7.5 acres of land located at the Western Avenue Orange line CTA stop will be redeveloped into a Park and Ride or Maintenance facility for the CTA. Other redevelopment scenarios are being explored. The cost of the emergency removal action was \$500,000.

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)
Leo Rosales (312-353-6198)

Water Main Construction Completion, Evergreen Manor Groundwater Contamination Site, Winnebago County, Illinois

U.S. EPA Region 5 completed construction of a water main extension project as part of a non-time critical removal action (NTCRA) at the Evergreen Manor Groundwater Contamination site located in Winnebago County, Illinois. The NTCRA connected 281 residences out of 283 eligible residences threatened by contaminated groundwater to the North Park Public Water District system. Groundwater is contaminated with trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene in excess of Maximum Contaminant Levels defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Contacts: Kenneth Theisen (312-886-1959)
Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

Removal Administrative Order Signed (Polychlorinated Biphenyl Spill), Letts Drop Forge, Detroit, Michigan

On September 18, 2000, the U.S. EPA signed an Administrative Order by Consent with Letts Drop Forge to cleanup the release

of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as a result of spilled dielectric fluids from several large transformers. The Letts Drop Forge site is an inactive metal forging facility located adjacent to the Detroit River. U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert responded to an emergency response at the facility on March 31, 2000, involving spilled dielectric fluids containing PCBs that entered the City of Detroit's storm water sewer system. Emergency response activities contained and removed all free-standing liquids associated with the spill. The cleanup of the facility will include: removal and disposal of all PCB-contaminated soils, cleanup of several City of Detroit's storm water catch basins, stabilization and disposal of several 55-gallon drums, several pits, and above-ground storage tanks containing hazardous substances.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Five-Year Review Report Completed, Fisher-Calo Superfund Site, Kingsbury, Indiana

A Five-Year Review Report was completed in September 2000 and signed by Superfund Director William E. Muno for the Fisher-Calo site in Kingsbury, Indiana. The report was based on a site inspection during June, and confirmed that the remedy remains protective of both human health and the environment.

The Fisher-Calo site has been in operation and maintenance since 1998. The remedy involves a pump & treatment system for four groundwater plumes, and enhanced soil vapor extraction of soil areas. The property was previously used for solvent recycling operations before it became a Superfund site.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

Administrative Complaint Filed, J.H. Routh Packing Company, Sandusky, Grie County, Ohio

On September 29, 2000, U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against J.H. Routh Packing Company, Sandusky, Ohio. The Complaint alleges violations of Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Sections 304 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The Respondent failed to immediately notify the National

Response Center, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of a 1,600 pound release of anhydrous ammonia that occurred at 4:45 p.m., on October 12, 1999. Additionally, the Respondent failed to submit the Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form to the SERC, the LEPC, and the local fire department for calendar years 1996-1998, by the March 1, deadline. Anhydrous ammonia is a hazardous chemical under CERCLA with a 100 pound reportable quantity and is an extremely hazardous substance under EPCRA with a 500 pound threshold planning quantity. The proposed penalty in the Complaint is \$136,503.13. The Respondent will have 30 days to answer the Complaint.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Administrative Complaint Filed, Home Juice Company, Melrose Park, Illinois

On September 29, 2000, U.S. EPA, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), filed an Administrative Complaint against Home Juice Company, Melrose Park, Illinois. The Complaint alleges violations of the Risk Management Program regulations, 40 C.F.R. Part 68. Specifically, the facility failed to submit a Risk Management Plan (RMP) by June 21, 1999, for its refrigeration system. The system uses 15,300 lbs. of anhydrous ammonia as a refrigerant. Under the Risk Management Program regulations, anhydrous ammonia is a regulated substance with a threshold quantity of 10,000 lbs. The facility submitted an RMP on April 25, 2000. The proposed penalty in the Complaint is \$21,000.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-313-2172)

Removal Assessment, Standard Paints, Detroit, Michigan

On October 4, 2000, U.S. EPA's On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert, a Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor, and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor conducted an initial site walk-thru, and will mobilize to Standard Paint next week to begin cleanup activities under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The site contains seven separate buildings containing 2,500 drums of additives, paint waste, and solvents. In addition, the site contains

approximately 20,000 small containers, 15 above-ground storage tanks, and 50 steel totes all containing hazardous substances or materials associated with paint waste. The site is currently under investigation by U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau Investigation.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Pre-final Inspection, Butterworth Landfill Superfund Site, Grand Rapids, Michigan

On September 26, 2000, a pre-final inspection was conducted at the Butterworth Landfill Superfund site in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The site remedy of a clay cap and alternate concentration limit groundwater monitoring is fully constructed and a preliminary site closeout report will be signed. Future activities at the site include long term groundwater monitoring, cap maintenance, and potential reuse of the site by the City of Grand Rapids.

Contact: Dion Novak (312-886-4737)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Presentation, County of St. Clair, Michigan Local Emergency Planning Committee

On October 3, 2000, Kurt Grunert (OSC) and Chief Dan Hagen (City of Eastpointe Fire/Rescue) made a presentation to Local Emergency Planning Committee regarding the chemical fire at Production Plating facility that took place on October 12, 1999. The purpose of the presentation was to address emergency management procedures for St. Clair County as a result of chemical fire or spill. The emergency response that took place at Production Plating lasted 7 days and involved several nearby cities and multiple agencies. The presentation ended with a question and answer session that was very useful for local, State, and Federal agencies that attended the meeting.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Meeting, Environmental Justice Training Collaborative Team, Atlanta, Georgia

On October 3-5, 2000, the Environmental Justice (EJ) collaborative team met to identify the schedule, content, learning objectives, activities, and materials needed to develop a successful baseline EJ training. The workgroup also developed an agenda for the upcoming October 24-26, 2000, collaborative meeting in Boston. At this meeting, the collaborative team will rollout a pilot EJ training to representatives from the Environmental Council of States, Federal agencies, community groups, Tribal government, industry, and others. Based on the feedback received, various pilots will be conducted at States, Tribes, Federal agencies, community groups, and others to help develop a consistent national baseline EJ training module.

Contact: Oliver Warnsley (312-886-0442)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Tim Fields (OSWER)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers